

MINUTES

OF THE

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2006

WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Natural Resource Commission was called to order by Chairperson Marcantonio at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2006 at the Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joan Schneider
Janice Marcantonio
Carol Kramer
Lennis Moore
Randy Duncan
Richard Kim Francisco
Liz Garst

APPROVE AGENDA

It was noted that Item 14a Water Trails Program Grants has been added to the agenda.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the February 9, 2006 NRC agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA APPROVED

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2005 and the January 18, 2006 NRC minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED

DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Liz Christiansen, Deputy Director announced that Director Vonk was attending a meeting out of town. She introduced Diane Ford-Shivvers to present a legislative update.

Initiatives discussed this week from the Environmental protection side included:
--directing fees collected from the wastewater disposal facilities the DNR instead of going to the general fund, to administer the wastewater permit program.

- require inspections of onsite private sewer systems and private water wells at the time of sale for transfer of property.
- require sewage disposal plans be approved by a local board of health before any subdivision plans are approved

From the conservation and recreation side:

- increase in cap on non-resident any sex deer and turkey hunting licenses.
- increase penalties for illegally taking bobcats and sport fish.
- separate commercial permits for taking commercial fish, turtles or freshwater mussels
- personal flotation devices for children under 13.
- electronic registration of ATVs for residents and penalties with regard to illegal riding and safety equipment violations.
- Honey Creek Park bonding authority change.
- sustainable funding for conservation and recreation.

Commissioner Duncan asked if either the insurance industry or the Iowa Farm Bureau has given support to the department's proposal to increase the non-resident deer tags.

Ford-Shivvers responded that the Farm Bureau has voiced some support; but said she was not aware of the insurance industry being at any subcommittee meetings. She added that legislators have heard overwhelmingly from constituent groups in opposition to this legislation.

Commissioner Francisco commented that the department needs to come up with an access program and then take to the constituents the need to increase the number of licenses to fund the program. He said this needs to come from the bottom up rather than the top down.

Diane Ford-Shivvers announced that on February 14 the Wildlife Bureau will hold their statewide meeting and they have invited participants from several states to come and talk about their access programs. Commissioners were invited to attend.

Wayne Gieselman, Administrator, Environmental Services Division, addressed water quality standards legislation. He explained that the department is responsible for imposing water quality standards to each stream throughout the state to protect fish and other aquatic life from pollution. Based on what the stream is used for, the standards determine how clean each waterway will be. Different standards may apply, depending on the use of the water. The current rulemaking uses the "top-down" approach which begins with the premise that the stream should be protected for fishing and swimming until actual assessments show that the water does not deserve that high level of protection.

Mr. Gieselman said the financial impact of establishing new water quality standards is a concern. The new standards will increase protection on a number of streams, and many communities and industries may have to make improvements to their wastewater treatment facilities. Mr. Gieselman briefly reviewed some of the financial incentives or innovative technologies as well as less expensive solutions available to communities that may help them make necessary improvements.

Commissioner Francisco asked what the impact will be for the state's parks system.

Gieselman responded that each park has a completed inventory detailing all environmental concerns of what needs to be fixed in each park. He said that the water quality standards should not impact the parks a great deal because most parks will not be treating high volumes of waste.

LAND ACQUISITION

Linda Hanson, Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item.

Anderson Prairie Complex, Emmet County—KP Land, L.L.C.

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the acquisition of a tract of land located one mile northwest of Estherville adjacent to the 815-acre Anderson Prairie Complex. The 80-acre tract is offered by KP Land, LLC. (Darrin Kruse and Mathew Peterson) for the appraised price of \$148,000.

Donald P. Kearns, Licensed Appraiser of Smith Land Service Co., Atlantic, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement.

The subject tract is classified as 80 acres of recreational land consisting of timber, mined gravel pit 10 to 35 feet deep, and spoils area from the pit adjacent to the West Fork of the Des Moines River. The CSR is 0 to 30. Acquisition of the subject tract will provide access and protection to approximately 2600 feet of river frontage. Public access is provided from the adjacent Anderson Prairie Complex and on the west from County Road N26. Stipulations attached to the acquisition include:

- a. sellers removing equipment and salable material from the mining operation;
- b. sellers pushing in small pits;
- c. sellers leveling off all piles and mounds of natural material and covering same with 4 to 6 inches of black dirt for future seeding of native grasses; and
- d. sellers leveling area along south boundary and covering with 4 to 6 inches of black dirt by July 15, 2006 for future seeding

There are no buildings. The tract will provide additional wetlands and habitat for upland wildlife. Acquisition funding will be NAWCA-Iowa Glaciated Wetlands. Incidental closing costs and surveying costs will be the responsibility of the Department. Surveying is estimated to be \$1800.

Motion was made by Commissioner Schneider to approve the acquisition of 80 acres of land adjacent to the Anderson Prairie Complex from KP Land, LLC for the appraised price of \$148,000. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

Anderson Prairie Complex, Emmet County—Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the acquisition of a tract of land located one mile west and 1½ miles north of Estherville adjacent to the Anderson Prairie Complex. The 19.6-acre tract is offered for \$62,000. The land was appraised for \$69,000. This tract of land was acquired by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation at an auction.

Steven K. Schmidt, Licensed Appraiser of Schmidt Appraisal Services of Spirit Lake, Iowa, submitted the appraisal. Jerry Gibson negotiated the purchase agreement.

The subject tract consists of 15.5 acres of cropland encumbered by a CRP contract through September 2007; 3.28 acres of building site and pond (unencumbered); and 0.82 acres of road right-of-way. After restoration the tract will contain approximately 19 acres of native prairie, and will provide excellent habitat for upland wildlife. This tract constitutes an in-holding that would prohibit prairie management (burning) on surrounding state land if left in private ownership. The CSR for the cropland is 51.

Acquisition funding will be Iowa Glaciated Wetlands NAWCA. Incidental closing costs will be the responsibility of the Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the acquisition of a 19.6 acre tract of land adjacent to the Anderson Prairie Complex from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the bargain price of \$62,000. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Motion carried unanimously.

LAND ACQUISITION APPROVED

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Linda Hanson, Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item.

Bids were opened January 18, 2006 for the following project:

Fort Atkinson Preserve, Winneshiek Co. – Stockade Wall Logs

This project consists of the purchase of approximately 750 of 16 ft by 10 inch diameter treated wood poles to be used to replace the existing stockade log walls as required by the Plans and the DNR Construction Inspector. Project is budgeted in Special Fort Atkinson Appropriation. DNR estimate is \$70,000. Seven sets of Plans were issued. Two bids were received.

Ovel Forest Products, Inc.	New Hampton, IA	\$ 79,747.50
Courtyard Gardens, Inc.	Spirit Lake, IA	\$123,375.00

Staff recommends award of contract to Ovel Forest Products, Inc., low bidder.

It was noted that funding for the Fort Atkinson Preserve was earmarked during the last legislative session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the low bid of Ovel Forest Products, Inc. of New Hampton in the amount of \$79,747.50 for stockade wall construction at Fort Atkinson Preserve in Winneshiek County. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPROVED

LOST GROVE LAKE CONSULTANT CONTRACT

Linda Hanson, Administrator, Management Services Division, presented the following item.

The original design of the Lost Grove Lake, completed in 2001, was based on the DNR's "moderate hazard" dam classification, originating with the Lost Grove Lake Feasibility Study completed in 1987. Construction; however, could not commence until the final parcel was purchased in 2005. The federal laws, rules and standards have changed since 2001, and have become more stringent; therefore, a major redesign of the project is required.

The Scope of Services in this new contract includes revising the existing construction plans and specifications to upgrade the design to a "high hazard" dam classification. In addition to the dam classification revisions, additional design revisions are required based on the updated geotechnical report completed by Team Services in January 2006. The additional geotechnical information and design information required for the current review process was requested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during agency review

The services provided under this contract also include: reviewing the current emergency spillway location and alignment; revising the cross-sections for the emergency spillway and dam; reviewing and designing a revised principle spillway configuration; updating hydrologic information to the current "high hazard" dam classification; and generally revising the plans and specifications to current practices and specifications.

This project is budgeted in Lost Grove Lake Fund. The DNR estimate is \$175,000. The negotiated contract is with Earth Tech, Inc., Waterloo, Iowa, the successor firm and staff most familiar with the original design in 2001. The negotiated price for the redesign contract, which includes a 15% contingency for unforeseen conditions, is \$167,400. DNR staff recommends award of a professional services contract, not to exceed \$167,400, to Earth Tech, Inc.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garst to approve the award of a professional services contract, not to exceed \$167,400 to Earth Tech, Inc. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT APPROVED

FISH AND WILDLIFE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for a \$200,000 increase to the FY 06 Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Appropriation for Operations. This adjustment is necessary in order for the DNR to utilize additional federal funding not available to the Department at the time appropriations were made. The Army Corps of Engineers has provided the Department funding to conduct the Missouri River Mitigation Project. Iowa and the other three lower Missouri River basin states each have a federally funded team. Responsibilities are directed at monitoring and evaluating the habitat created at Missouri River mitigation sites and the response of the aquatic community.

Funds will be utilized to add two new full-time positions, as well as seasonal help and support costs to complete project responsibilities.

This action is being requested in accordance with Section 11.2 of House File 808, which allows the Commission to approve an appropriation increase from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund if it is a result of increased revenues received from "a private entity, or a grant or moneys received from the federal government."

Motion was made by Commissioner Garst to approve a \$200,000 increase to the FY 06 Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Appropriation for Operations. Seconded by Commissioner Schneider. Motion carried unanimously.

TRUST FUND APPROPRIATION APPROVED

FINAL RULE—CHAPTER 94, NONRESIDENT DEER HUNTING

Terry Little, Wildlife Supervisor, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]
Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 94, "Nonresident Deer Hunting," Iowa Administrative Code.

Chapter 94 gives the regulations for hunting deer and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, areas open to hunting, licensing procedures, means and methods of taking, and transportation tag requirements. The amendments require that nonresidents who purchase an any-deer license also purchase an antlerless-only deer license and re-defines "antlerless deer" to correspond to the rule for resident deer hunters.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 7, 2005, as ARC 4715B. The only comment received supported banning firearms from road ditches during the deer seasons; requested that all nonresident antlerless licenses be issued for the January Antlerless Season; and that nonresident any-deer licenses be issued by county. A public hearing was held on January 4, 2005. The only participant was fully in support

of the notice as written. The only changes from the Notice of Intended Action are to clarify language in 94.8 and rescind Item 4. This action leaves the ban on shooting firearms from the road ditch during the shotgun deer seasons in effect only north of U.S. Highway 30.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

These amendments shall become effective April 5, 2006.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571--94.1(483A) as follows:

571—94.1(483A) Licenses. Every hunter must have in possession a valid nonresident deer license, a valid nonresident hunting license, and proof that the hunter has paid the current year's wildlife habitat fee when hunting, possessing, or transporting deer. No person, while hunting deer, shall carry or have in possession any license or transportation tag issued to another person. ~~No person shall obtain more than one nonresident deer hunting license.~~

94.1(1) Types of licenses.

a. Any-deer licenses. Any-deer licenses shall be valid for taking deer of either sex in the zone and season designated by the hunter when the application is submitted as described in rule 94.8(483A).

b. Mandatory antlerless-only licenses. Each hunter who is successful in drawing an any-deer license must also purchase an antlerless-only license for the same zone and season as the any-deer license. If the hunter is unsuccessful in drawing an any-deer license, neither the any-deer nor antlerless-only license will be issued.

c. Optional antlerless-only licenses. A hunter who is not successful in drawing an any-deer license may purchase an antlerless-only license as described in rule 94.8(483A). This antlerless-only license shall be valid in the zone and season designated by the hunter at the time it is purchased.

d. Antlerless deer defined. Antlerless-only licenses shall be valid for taking deer that have no forked antler.

94.1(4)(2) Bow season license. Bow and arrow deer licenses shall be valid for ~~any sex~~ deer of either sex or antlerless deer ~~only~~ during the bow season and in the zone designated by the hunter at the time the application is submitted.

94.1(2)(3) Regular gun season license. Regular gun season licenses will be issued for ~~any sex~~ deer of either sex or antlerless deer. Regular gun season licenses will be issued by zone and season and will be valid in the ~~designated~~ zone and ~~for the designated~~ season ~~only~~ designated by the hunter when the application is submitted.

94.1(3)(4) Muzzleloader season license. Muzzleloader season licenses will be issued for ~~any sex~~ deer of either sex or antlerless deer and shall be valid only during the muzzleloader season and in the zone designated by the hunter when the application is submitted.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 571--94.6(483A) as follows:

571—94.6(483A) License quotas. A limited number of nonresident deer licenses will be issued in zones as follows:

94.6(1) Zone license quotas. Nonresident license quotas are as follows:

	Any-sex deer licenses		Antlerless deer only licenses	
	<u>Any-deer licenses</u>		<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Optional</u>
	All Methods	Bow licenses	<u>Antlerless-only</u>	<u>Antlerless-only</u>
Zone 1.	180	63	<u>180</u>	
Zone 2.	180	63	<u>180</u>	
Zone 3.	560	196	<u>560</u>	
Zone 4.	1280	448	<u>1280</u>	
Zone 5.	1600	560	<u>1600</u>	
Zone 6.	800	280	<u>800</u>	
Zone 7.	360	126	<u>360</u>	
Zone 8.	240	84	<u>240</u>	
Zone 9.	600	210	<u>600</u>	
Zone 10.	200	70	<u>200</u>	
Total	6000	2100	<u>6000</u>	3500 statewide

94.6(2) Quota applicability. The license quota issued for each zone will be the quota for all bow, regular gun and muzzleloader season licenses combined. No more than 6,000 ~~any-sex deer~~ any-deer licenses and 6,000 mandatory antlerless-only licenses will be issued for all methods of take combined, for the entire state. Of the 6,000 ~~any-sex deer~~ any-deer and 6,000 mandatory antlerless-only licenses, no more than 35 percent in any zone can be bow licenses. A maximum of ~~2,500 antlerless deer only~~ 3,500 optional antlerless-only licenses, regardless of season or zone, will be issued for the entire state. Hunters must designate a zone and season when purchasing the license and hunt only in that zone and season.

94.6(3) ~~Antlerless defined. For purposes of this chapter, antlerless deer are defined as deer without antlers or with no antler longer than 7 inches.~~

ITEM 3. Rescind subrule 94.7(3) and adopt a new subrule in lieu thereof:

94.7(3) Muzzleloader seasons. During the muzzleloader season, deer may be taken with a muzzleloader, handgun, or bow as described in 94.7(1). Muzzleloading rifles are defined as flintlock or percussion cap lock muzzleloaded rifles and muskets of not less than .44 and not larger than .775 caliber, shooting single projectiles only. Centerfire handguns must be .357 caliber or larger shooting straight-walled cartridges propelling an expanding-type bullet (no full-metal jacket) and complying with all other requirements provided in Iowa Code section 481A.48. Legal handgun calibers are listed on the department of natural resources list of “acceptable handgun calibers for hunting deer in Iowa.” Revolvers, pistols and black powder handguns must have a 4-inch minimum barrel length. There can be no shoulder stock or long-barrel modifications to handguns. Muzzleloading handguns must be .44 caliber or larger, shooting single projectiles only.

ITEM 4 Amend rule 571--94.8(483A) as follows:

571—94.8(483A) Application procedure. Applications for nonresident deer hunting licenses must be made through the electronic licensing system for Iowa (ELSI) telephone order system or the ELSI Internet license sales Web site.

94.8(1) ~~Any-sex~~ Any-deer licenses. Applications for ~~any-sex~~ any-deer and mandatory antlerless-only licenses will be accepted from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday

in June. No one may submit more than one application during the application period. Hunters may apply as individuals or as a group of up to 15 applicants. All members of a group will be accepted or rejected together in the drawing. If applications have been sold in excess of the license quota for any zone or season, a drawing will be held to determine which applicants receive licenses. Licenses or refunds of license fees will be mailed to applicants after the drawing is completed. License agent writing fees, department administrative fees and telephone order charges will not be refunded. If any zone's license quota for ~~any-sex any-deer and mandatory antlerless-only~~ licenses has not been filled, the excess ~~any-sex any-deer and mandatory antlerless-only~~ licenses will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis through the telephone ordering system or the Internet license sales Web site. Excess ~~any-sex any-deer and mandatory antlerless-only~~ licenses will be sold beginning the fourth Saturday after the close of the application period until the quota has been filled or the last day of the hunting period for which the license is valid, whichever occurs first. Members of a group that is rejected may purchase licenses individually if excess ~~any-sex any-deer and mandatory antlerless-only~~ licenses or ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses are available.

94.8(2) ~~Antlerless-deer-only~~ Optional antlerless-only licenses. ~~Antlerless-deer-only~~ Optional antlerless-only licenses must be purchased through the ELSI telephone ordering system or the ELSI Internet license sales Web site. Licenses for taking ~~antlerless-only~~ only antlerless deer will be available on the same date as excess ~~any-sex any-deer~~ licenses are sold as explained in 94.8(1). ~~Antlerless-deer-only~~ Optional antlerless-only licenses will be sold first-come, first-served until the statewide quota is filled, or until the last day of the season for which a license is valid. If ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses are still available on December 15, they may be purchased by nonresidents to hunt during the period from December 24 through January 2. These licenses will be available to nonresidents who have not purchased a nonresident deer license during one of the current deer seasons. ~~The cost will be \$50, and the~~ The hunter must have in possession a valid nonresident small game hunting license and proof of having paid the current year's wildlife habitat fee. ~~Antlerless-deer-only~~ Optional antlerless-only licenses will be issued by season and zone and will be valid only in the season and zone designated ~~on the license by the hunter at the time the license is purchased.~~

a. Nonresident landowners. Nonresidents who own land in Iowa will have preference in obtaining ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses. Nonresidents must qualify as landowners following the criteria stated in 571—subrule 106.12(1) and 571—subrules 106.12(3) through 106.12(6), except that nonresident tenants and family members of nonresident landowners and tenants do not qualify and nonresident ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses will not be free of charge. If a farm unit is owned jointly by more than one nonresident, only one owner may ~~obtain a nonresident antlerless-deer-only license~~ claim landowner preference in the same year. Nonresidents who own land jointly with a resident do not qualify for preference. Nonresidents who have provided proof to the department that they own land in Iowa and meet the qualifying criteria may exclusively purchase ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses for the first 14 days of the sale period. Such proof must be provided before an ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional Antlerless-only deer license can be purchased and must be resubmitted each year in which an ~~antlerless~~ optional antlerless-only license is purchased.

b. Nonresident proof of land ownership. Nonresidents who request preference for ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses will be required to submit a copy of their state of Iowa property tax statement for the current year or sign an affidavit that lists the legal

description of their land, date purchased, and book and page number, or instrument number, where the deed is recorded.

c. Nonresidents who do not own land in Iowa. Nonresidents who are not Iowa landowners may purchase ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ optional antlerless-only licenses beginning the fifteenth day after ~~antlerless-deer-only~~ licenses they are available to landowners.

94.8(3) Preference points. Each individual applicant who is unsuccessful in the drawing for an ~~any-sex~~ any-deer license will be assigned one preference point for each year that the individual is unsuccessful. Preference points will not accrue in a year in which an applicant fails to apply, but the applicant will retain any preference points previously earned. Preference points will apply only to obtaining ~~any-sex~~ any-deer licenses. Once an applicant receives an ~~any-sex~~ any-deer nonresident deer hunting license, all preference points will be removed until the applicant is again unsuccessful in a drawing or purchases a preference point as described in subrule 94.8(4). Preference points will apply to any zone or season for which a hunter applies. The first drawing for ~~any-sex~~ any-deer licenses each year will be made from the pool of applicants with the most preference points. If licenses are still available after the first drawing, subsequent drawings will be made from pools of applicants with successively fewer preference points and continue until the ~~any-sex~~ any-deer license quota is reached or all applicants have received licenses. Applicants who apply as a group will be included in a pool of applicants with the same number of preference points as that of the member of the group with the fewest preference points assigned.

94.8(4) Purchasing preference points. A nonresident who does not want to hunt in the current year may purchase one preference point per calendar year. The preference point will apply to the next year's drawing for ~~any-sex~~ any-deer licenses. The preference point will be treated in the same manner as preference points obtained by hunters who are unsuccessful in the ~~any-sex~~ any-deer license drawing. A nonresident may not purchase a preference point and apply for an ~~any-sex~~ any-deer license in the same calendar year. Preference points may be purchased only during the application period for ~~any-sex~~ any-deer licenses. Preference points will cost \$10 to offset administrative costs in addition to the usual writing fee, convenience fee and other fees charged by the ELSI system.

Date

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director

Mr. Little reviewed that changes to the Notice of Intended Action clarify language in 94.8 and rescind Item 4. This action leaves the ban on shooting firearms from the road ditch during the shotgun deer seasons in effect only north of U.S. Highway 30.

Motion was made by Commissioner Duncan to approve Final Rule—Chapter 64, Nonresident Deer Hunting. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

FINAL RULE APPROVED

FINAL RULE—CHAPTER 114, NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to adopt a new Chapter 114 – Nuisance Wildlife Control. The new chapter adds control and translocation of injurious or over-abundant Canada geese to the activities permitted to be undertaken by private animal control businesses.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]
Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 455A.5, the Natural Resource Commission hereby rescinds Chapter 114, "Nuisance Wildlife Control," Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt new chapter 114 with the same title,.

Chapter 114 explains provisions for allowing private individuals to handle nuisance wildlife complaints. The new chapter adds rules to permit private individuals, organizations, businesses, and public agencies to engage in lethal control practices and trap and translocation programs to control injurious or overabundant Canada geese.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on December 7, 2005, as ARC 4719B. Only 1 comment was received - Innolytics, LLC requested adding the authority to use a contraceptive feed additive as a method of controlling goose reproduction. A public hearing was held on January 4, 2006. No one attended the hearing. The only change from the Notice of Intended Action was to clarify the definition of nuisance wildlife. No changes affected the content of the rules.

This new chapter is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24(8), 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

This amendment shall become effective April 5, 2006.

The following amendment is adopted.

Rescind 571--Chapter 114, and adopt the following new Chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 114
NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL

571—114.1(456A) Nuisance wildlife control program. This chapter is intended to implement Iowa Code section 456A.24(8) by providing permitting of nuisance wildlife control operators for the purpose of protecting private property from nuisance wildlife. No provision of this chapter shall restrict a landowner from lawfully removing nuisance wildlife pursuant to Iowa Code section 481A.87.

571--114.2(456A) Definitions.

“Annual activity report” means an annual report submitted on a form provided by the department.

“Biologist” means a natural resource biologist employed by the wildlife bureau of the department of natural resources.

“Guidebook” means the nuisance wildlife control operator’s manual provided by the department.

“Helper” means a person who possesses a fur harvester license, has paid the habitat fee, and is listed, by name, on the permit as authorized to perform nuisance wildlife control operator duties under the direction of the permittee.

“Nuisance wildlife” means wild, native animals or birds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources that are causing damage to private property, creating a nuisance, or presenting a health hazard.

“Nuisance wildlife control operator” or “NWCO” means a person who operates as a business and charges a fee to remove nuisance wildlife from private property.

“Permit” means an annual permit issued by the department under the authority of Iowa Code section 455A.5(6)"e" for the purpose of capturing and removing nuisance wildlife from private property. The permit shall expire January 10 of each year and is not transferable.

“Permittee” means an NWCO who possesses a valid nuisance wildlife control operator’s permit issued by the department and also possesses a valid Iowa fur harvester license and has paid the habitat fee.

“Special Canada goose control permit” or “SCGCP” means a permit to engage in the Canada goose population control activities specified by the department of natural resources.

“Technician” means a natural resource technician employed by the Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources.

“Translocate” means to transport and release an animal at a site other than the site at which it was captured.

571—114.3(456A) Nuisance wildlife control operator’s permit. An NWCO permit may be issued to an NWCO who, upon application and following review and testing, complies with all requirements established within this chapter. This is an annual permit and may be renewed by January 10 of the following year. The department shall not renew a permit without first receiving a completed annual activity report for the previous year.

571—114.4(456A) Application requirements. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid driver’s license.

571—114.5(456A) Nuisance wildlife control operator’s guidebook. All applicants will receive an NWCO guidebook at the time they submit a completed permit application form. The permittee shall refer to the guidebook as an operating manual for nuisance wildlife control activity. All requirements and procedures listed in the guidebook must be followed. The NWCO guidebook is hereby adopted by reference and shall be a part of this chapter as if set forth herein.

571—114.6(456A) Nuisance wildlife control operator’s test and interview. An applicant must successfully pass a written test with a minimum test score of 80 percent before an NWCO permit will be issued. If the applicant fails the written test, the applicant must wait 45 days before retaking the test. If the applicant fails the written test a second time, the applicant must wait 180 days before reapplying. A \$25 testing fee will be assessed when the applicant successfully completes the test. In addition, the applicant must successfully complete an oral, in-person interview with a representative of the department to determine the applicant’s knowledge of wildlife and wildlife capture techniques, and to determine if the applicant has the ability to provide effective services to the public.

571—114.7(456A) Records and record-keeping requirements. All permittees shall keep a daily record of their nuisance wildlife control activities. Each record must contain the client's name, address, telephone number, date of service, service provider's name, species of animal, number of animals removed, control methods used, and disposition of the animals. Permittees holding an SCGCP must also document on aerial photos, or similar maps, the locations of all Canada goose nests destroyed, the numbers of Canada goose eggs destroyed, and the numbers of Canada geese killed at each project site. These records shall be kept up to date and on file at the business location specified in the permit. The permittee shall provide these records for inspection by a department representative at any reasonable time.

571—114.8(456A) Annual activity report. The permittee shall submit an annual activity report on forms provided by the department no later than January 31 of the following year. The department shall not renew a permit until a complete and accurate annual activity report has been received for the preceding year.

571—114.9(456A) Permit renewal. An NWCO permit may be renewed by the department when all reporting requirements for the previous year have been met. An administrative fee of \$20 will be assessed at the time of permit renewal.

571—114.10(456A) Helper. A helper shall operate under the same conditions as the permittee. The permittee shall be responsible for all actions of the helpers listed on the permit. Compliance violations committed by a helper may be cause for the department to revoke the NWCO permit.

571—114.11(456A) Capture methods and trap tagging. Live traps such as box traps and leg-hold traps should be used whenever possible. Humane traps, which are those designed to kill instantly and which have a jaw spread exceeding eight inches, are unlawful except when placed entirely under water. All traps and snares, except those that are placed entirely under water, shall be checked once every 24 hours. All traps and snares for the taking of nuisance wildlife shall have a metal tag attached that is plainly labeled with the permittee's business name and address. If traditional capture methods fail, the permittee may use chemicals, smoking devices, mechanical ferrets, wire, tools, instruments, or water to remove nuisance animals in accordance with the procedures contained in the guidebook. No person, except a person acting under an NWCO permit, shall capture or take, or attempt to capture or take, with any trap, snare, or net, any game bird. The permittee and designated helpers shall observe all Iowa fur trapping and fur possession regulations as provided for by Iowa law, the Iowa Administrative Code, and the NWCO guidebook.

571--114.12(456A) Endangered and threatened wildlife species. The permittee is not authorized to capture or possess any wildlife species listed as endangered or threatened. A permittee may only capture or possess a federally protected species to the extent that the permittee is authorized to engage in specific Canada goose population control activities by the terms of a valid SCGCP. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the capture or possession of bobcats, spotted skunks, hawks, owls, eagles, migratory birds, waterfowl, and songbirds. When a nuisance wildlife problem involves an endangered or threatened species, the local state conservation officer must be contacted, and the officer will determine how the situation should be handled.

571--114.13(456A) Special Canada goose control permits. A person applying for a special Canada goose control permit to use lethal methods to control Canada goose populations or to trap and translocate Canada geese must be a currently certified NWCO and must abide by the following rules:

114.13(1) Lethal control practices. Permittees wishing to use lethal methods, such as nest destruction, egg oiling, egg addling, or killing geese, must comply with the following procedures:

a. Permittees must obtain written permission from the biologist responsible for the county in which the lethal control practice is proposed for every site where a lethal control practice is proposed before implementing any such practice. The biologist will determine if lethal control practices are necessary and will specify the number of nests, eggs, or adult geese that can be destroyed at each site.

b. The permittee must follow the procedures in the NWCO guidebook for implementing lethal control practices and disposing of dead birds, eggs, and nests. Failure to follow such procedures will result in immediate revocation of the permit.

c. Permittees must satisfactorily complete at least two lethal control projects under the direct supervision of a biologist or technician before being granted an SCGCP for lethal control practices. Upon the permittee's satisfactory completion of two lethal control projects, the biologist can issue the NWCO an SCGCP to perform lethal control activities without direct supervision by DNR personnel. The NWCO must carry this permit whenever engaged in lethal Canada goose control activities and exhibit it upon request by department of natural resources personnel. Any persons assisting with the lethal control practices must be listed on the SCGCP. The permittee is responsible for the conduct of all persons listed on the SCGCP who are helping conduct lethal control operations.

d. Permittees must document on an aerial photo, or similar map, the locations of all Canada goose nests destroyed, the numbers of Canada goose eggs destroyed, and the numbers of Canada geese killed at each project site within 48 hours of completion of each project. Any banded geese that are killed must have the bands removed before disposal and be reported as specified in the NWCO guidebook within 48 hours of the permittee's completion of the project.

e. Permittees must provide the department a written report of all lethal control activities by December 31 of the year for which the SCGCP is valid. Failure to provide this report by December 31 will result in the permittee's not being reauthorized to use lethal control methods the following year.

114.13(2) Trapping and translocation operations. Permittees wishing to trap and translocate Canada geese must comply with the following procedures:

a. Permittees must obtain written permission from the biologist responsible for the county in which the trap and translocation operation is proposed for every site where such operation is proposed before implementing any such operation. The biologist will determine if trap and translocation is necessary and will specify the number of geese that can be translocated from each site. The biologist will also specify release sites for the captured geese. Release sites must be approved by the biologist before any geese are captured.

b. The permittee must follow the procedures in the NWCO guidebook for implementing trap and translocation operations. Failure to follow such procedures will result in immediate revocation of the permit.

c. Before the permittee engages in a trap and translocation operation, the permittee's trapping and transport equipment must be inspected and approved by a biologist or technician.

d. Permittees must satisfactorily complete at least four trap and translocation projects under the direct supervision of a biologist or technician before being granted an SCGCP for trap and translocation operations. Upon satisfactory completion of four trap and translocation projects, the biologist can issue the NWCO an SCGCP to perform trap and translocation operations without direct supervision by DNR personnel. The NWCO must carry this permit whenever engaged in trap and translocation operations and exhibit it upon request by department of natural resources personnel. Any persons assisting with the trap and translocation operations must be listed on the SCGCP. The permittee is responsible for the conduct of all persons listed on the SCGCP who are helping with trap and translocation operations.

e. Permittees must inform the biologist of the number of birds captured and translocated within 48 hours of the completion of each operation. Permittees must document the number of Canada geese trapped and released for each capture and release site and the number of geese that died during each trap and translocation operation. Any banded geese that are captured and translocated must be reported as specified in the NWCO guidebook within 48 hours of completion of the project.

f. Permittees must provide the department a written report of all trap and translocation operations by December 31 of the year for which the SCGCP is valid. Failure to provide this report by December 31 will result in the permittee's not being reauthorized to trap and translocate geese the following year.

114.13(3) General provisions.

a. The SCGCP is valid for one year and must be reauthorized by a biologist each year when the NWCO permit is renewed.

b. Any plumage, eggs, egg shells, nests, or dead birds encountered by the permittee when performing activities permitted under this rule may not be sold, offered for sale, bartered or shipped or possessed for the purposes of being sold, offered for sale, bartered or shipped.

c. Any properties on which lethal control or trap and transport operations are conducted must be open at all reasonable times, including during actual operations, to any biologist or technician, conservation officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent, or U.S. Department of Agricultural Wildlife Services agent wishing to inspect the activity or the results of the activity.

d. Nothing in the permit should be construed to authorize the killing of any migratory bird or the destruction of the nests or eggs of any migratory bird other than resident Canada geese.

571—114.14(456A) Disposition of captured nuisance wildlife. Nuisance wildlife, with the exception of endangered or threatened species, may be relocated or euthanized. The permittee shall comply with the euthanization and release methods described in the NWCO guidebook. Sick or injured wildlife must be handled as described in the NWCO guidebook. The carcass of a dead nuisance animal must be disposed of in a legal manner and within 24 hours of the animal's death.

571—114.15(456A) General conditions for permits. Records and facilities shall be available for inspection by officers of the department during reasonable hours. All records and reports must be kept current and shall reflect a true and accurate account of the permittee's activities. The department's law enforcement bureau shall be notified in writing within 30 days if the

permittee ceases operation as a nuisance wildlife control operator. Permittees and helpers must obtain and possess valid fur harvester licenses and have paid the habitat, fees except that persons listed as assistants on the SCGCP do not need to have a valid fur harvester license nor to have paid the habitat fee when assisting with Canada goose control activities. Permittees must renew their NWCO permits by January 31 of each year.

571—114.16(456A) Permit refusal. The department may suspend, revoke, refuse to issue, or refuse to renew a nuisance wildlife control operator's permit if the department finds that the permittee, a helper, or an employee of the permittee is not in compliance with this chapter. In addition, any violation of Iowa Code chapter 481A, 481B, 482, 483A, 484A, 484B, or 716 shall be cause for the department to suspend, revoke, refuse to issue, or refuse to renew a permit.

571—114.17(456A) Penalties. A person or organization that violates a provision of this chapter is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 456A.24(8), 481A.38, 481A.39 and 481A.48.

Date

Jeffrey W. Vonk, Director

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve Final Rule—Chapter 114, Nuisance Wildlife Control. Seconded by Commissioner Schneider. Motion carried unanimously.

FINAL RULE APPROVED

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION—CHAPTER 82, SPORT FISHING RULE

Marion Conover, Fisheries Bureau Chief, presented the following item.

Approval is requested to file a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 82, Commercial Fishing Rule. The proposed amendments are directed at conserving the shovelnose sturgeon and include establishment of size harvest and season restrictions along with a requirement to leave the fish intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility. Over exploitation of traditional sources of the world supply of caviar has driven up the recent demand for shovelnose sturgeon roe or eggs. The first reported harvest of sturgeon roe by licensed commercial fishers occurred in 2004 with a reported harvest of 3,152 pounds valued raw at \$126,000 (\$40/lb.). The 2005 reported harvest was 3,518 pounds valued at \$158,000 (\$45/lb.).

Shovelnose sturgeon are slow growing late maturing fish which spawn every three years rather than annually like most species. Mississippi River fisheries resource managers are concerned about the species ability to sustain viable populations against unchecked harvest rates. Mississippi River basin states have worked together across state lines to draft harvest restrictions for the species.

The regulations promoted for our border waters with Illinois and Wisconsin are the establishment of a minimum harvest size limit of 27 inches fork length. In addition a maximum size limit of 34 inches fork length is proposed for waters of the Mississippi River common with Wisconsin. A closed season is proposed from May 16 to October 14. In addition the three states are proposing the fish remain intact until reaching the final processing facility.

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION [571]
Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 82 "Commercial Fishing," Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments provide for three changes in shovelnose sturgeon rules on the Mississippi River: 1) establish size limit harvest restrictions, 2) establish a harvest season from October 15 through May 15, and 3) specify that all eggs or roe must remain intact with shovelnose sturgeon while the commercial fisher is on the water.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before September 23, 2006. Such written materials should be directed to Marion Conover, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0034; fax (515) 281-6794. Persons who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Fisheries Bureau at (515) 281-5208 or at the Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

Also, there will be three public hearings as follows:

March 28, 2006	7:00 p.m.	Municipal Building 502 South First Street Guttenberg, IA
March 29, 2006	7:00 p.m.	Clinton County Administration Building Conference Room D 1900 North Third Street Clinton, IA
March 30, 2006	7:00 p.m.	Starr's Cave Nature Center 11629 Starr's Cave Park Road Burlington, IA

At the public hearings persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearings, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any person who intends to attend a public hearing and has special requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 482.1.

The following amendments are proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 82.2(2) as follows:

82.2(2) Size limits. ~~The minimum length limit for all catfish is 15 inches. Catfish less than 15 inches shall be returned unharmed to the water.~~ Fish less than a minimum length or longer than maximum length shall be returned to the water unharmed. The minimum total length for all catfish is 15 inches. The minimum fork length for shovelnose sturgeon is 27 inches. No shovelnose sturgeon longer than 34 inches fork length may be harvested from waters of the Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 571—82.2(482) by adopting the following new subrules:

82.2(8) Seasons. There is a continuous open season for commercial fishing of all species listed in 82.2(1) except there is a closed season for shovelnose sturgeon from May 16 through October 14.

82.2(9) Special shovelnose regulations. Shovelnose sturgeon must remain intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility or business. For the purposes of this section, final processing facility does not include vessels or vehicles.

Date

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director

Marion Conover reviewed the proposed rule changes. He explained that the changes are directed at conserving the shovelnose sturgeon, including the establishment of size harvest and season restrictions along with a requirement to leave the fish intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve Notice of Intended Action—Chapter 82, Sport Fishing Rule. Seconded by Commissioner Garst. Motion carried unanimously.

NOTICE APPROVED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jamie Beyer

Jamie Beyer, Past President of Iowa Trappers Association, spoke regarding the proposed bobcat and otter seasons. He expressed appreciation of DNR's efforts to bring otters and bobcats back. Mr. Beyer reviewed the history of the Trappers Association partnership with DNR to raise funds for otter reintroduction in Iowa. He talked of the unique opportunity of opening two new harvesting seasons in Iowa, adding that part of that management is to have a very modest harvest season which would provide more recreational opportunities, resulting in an increased economic benefit.

Commissioner Schneider asked staff about the statement in a letter about imposing additional fees. Terry Little said that staff had originally proposed an additional fee, but the department has now decided to not go forward with an additional fee.

John Stone

John Stone, Hopkinton, Iowa, presented the following statements: “Some of you may know me from other presentations to you about the deer problem. Suffice it to say, I’m the deer tick in the Wildlife Bureau’s fur.

My wife and I own a 330 acre tree farm in northeast Iowa. We know the forest—we are out in the woods 3 to 12 hours a day—daily. We actively manage our forest for timber and diversity.

Now, let’s clear the air about hunting and our position. We don’t like hunting. However, we do it to control the deer population—to the tune of 70 deer per year—85% are antlerless.

Today, I will talk to you about the proposed bobcat and otter seasons that you will decide on soon. I will talk about ethics—ethics in the conduct of the DNR in proposing and promoting the seasons.

The mission of the DNR wildlife division “is to ensure adequate protection, scientific management and appropriate use of Iowa’s natural resources”. Secondary is “providing . . . outdoor recreational opportunities for Iowans”. This is the crux of the proposed seasons. Providing an outdoor recreational opportunity for the few over the protection of the bobcats and otters”.

Mr. Stone also talked about ethics and the professional conduct of DNR staff and whether improper lobbying took place when they asked the Iowa Trappers Association for support.

Mr. Stone further commented regarding the public comment process. He said DNR started a lengthy comment period from mid December to mid March. This summary of comments will go to the commission with a Notice of Intended Action where the commission votes for the rule. He said the problem with that is the DNR is constantly “fine tuning” the information so the comments made in December should have no relevance in March and comments based on information supplied one week should not be valid when new conflicting information comes out the next week.

Mr. Stone talked about flawed data on otter and as well as bobcats. He noted that the estimated growth of bobcat population actually decreased between 2004 and 2005 when using DNR figures. In addition, articles posted by DNR quote the population as different at each posting. He said DNR is reporting a lower growth rate, lower bobcat numbers and lower sightings now than in earlier years.

In summary, Mr. Stone said the proposed season is riddled with mistakes – improper lobbying, incorrect and inconsistent data, shifting data from week to week to fit the DNR’s goal of seasons, and a comment period front loaded to maximize positive comments for the proposed seasons. He said it is time to examine the conduct and data of the DNR and ISU personnel by an entity outside the DNR and Iowa State University. He asked that plans for a proposed season be abandoned.

Tracy Hutton

Tracy Hutton, St. Charles, Iowa, representing the Iowa Trappers Association, presented the following statement:

“My name is Tracy Hutton. I live in rural St. Charles and am a mother of 3 boys, ages 7, 5, and 2. I am here today to speak to you about the current proposal to open a season on river otters and bobcats.

Like many other families across our great state, Iowa's natural resources play a big role in defining our family's values. It is priceless to watch my sons' eyes brighten in the summer as they reel in their first catfish of the day, as they follow their father on an early winter trapline, or simply stare out the window to watch the fox squirrels playing in our backyard. We as humans are drawn to nature's wonders because we are a part of nature. We hold a special place in nature because we can help shape our environment to make room for us and the animals too.

Iowa is among the nation's leading states for our diversity and abundance of wildlife. We are a national example of successful wildlife conservation and preservation practices. Trapping is part of the reason we enjoy such a natural bounty.

Both the bobcat and river otter are at the top of the food chain, with virtually no natural predators. It is our responsibility as humans to insure that these species are managed for the greatest benefit of all living things. A regulated season on these two animals will insure that the proper balance is achieved for the maximum benefit of not just the bobcat and river otter, but all of our natural resources.

Iowa and the nation's wildlife are thriving thanks to well-managed seasons identical to those proposed for our bobcats and river otters. They keep wild species in balance with available habitat. Most important, they keep Iowa's wild life healthy and abundant for all to enjoy whether they hunt, trap, fish or sit and watch.

Failure to protect and conserve Iowa's bobcat and river otter populations by this proven and sustainable management method is simply animal cruelty in it worst form. To ignore a hundred years of conserving wildlife through sustainable use is to shirk the responsibility all humans have to nature.

Opponents of trapping, hunting, fishing, and farming pretend that they are helping animals cheat death. They don't and they can't. Death is part of nature. That's an undeniable rule of nature whether we are talking about plants, animals or humans: from death comes life. One generation makes way for the next.

Iowa's citizens and animals deserve better than regulations founded on nothing more than emotion from those who are out of touch with nature. For the sake of my boys, for the sake of nature lovers of all ages, as well as Iowa's wildlife and wild places, I urge you to protect and conserve Iowa's natural resources and keep our state a leader in wildlife conservation by saying "YES" to a harvest season on bobcats and river otters.”

Regina Jager

Regina Jager, Eddville, Iowa, representing the Iowa Trappers Association, made the following statement:

“I raise cattle with my parents on the same land that has been in our family for over 100 years. I graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in animal ecology. I am also a former president of the ISU Furharvesters Club and a former recipient of the Iowa Trappers Association scholarship.

I am speaking to you today in favor of the current proposal to open a season on river otters and bobcats. As you may have noticed, I do not fit the stereotype of a trapper and I have been hunting and trapping

since I was a young child. I have loved trapping since the first time my father brought me along with him on his line. My brother and I would traipse along behind him with our very own miniature path baskets?? Wide eyed and determined not to miss a thing. While he answered a never ending stream of questions ranging from “Dad, what tree is this” to “Look, Dad, what is this track”, and “Why do beavers build dams”? My love and respect of nature is deep and inviting because of my early and continuous exposure to it. There is no doubt that my chosen area of study is a direct result of my early experiences hunting and trapping in the great outdoors.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is among the nation’s leaders in conservation and wildlife. The time has never been better to take the appropriate steps to keep Iowa a leader in wildlife conservation by opening a regulated season on otters and bobcats. River otter populations flourished across the state and have even grown to the point in many areas that they are considered a nuisance. Bobcat populations have skyrocketed in southern Iowa, which is my area, to the point that many officials believe they now outnumber coyotes in certain areas. I won’t go into the science and statistical analysis. It has already been presented by paid experts like Ron Andrews and Todd Gosselink and others. It is evident through data gathered by these professionals that the time is right to open a regulated season on these two species. If our experts within the DNR say that opening a season will have no detrimental effect on the population, and actually still allow for growth, then we should listen.

It is important to point out that those who oppose opening a bobcat and otter harvest season are not necessarily against just taking bobcat and otter, but are against all trapping, hunting, fishing and in many cases, even production of domestic livestock. These well meaning but misguided individuals, with their unrealistic views of nature believe that wildlife should be left to fend for itself. This ignores our obligation and responsibility to protect and sustain our resources. What they don’t understand is that when left unchecked, population will skyrocket and then plummet due to starvation and disease. This would put us right back where we were so many years ago, spending a lot of valuable time and money to try and rebuild the habitat and re-establish the population growth again. To accept the claim that trapping and hunting are cruel and not necessary, you are falling into an emotional and intellectual trap set by those who want you, me and everyone else to conform to their creed of what is acceptable and what is not. Trapping and hunting are valuable tools to preserve the necessary balance among all living things. With this balance all of nature can thrive for years to come, which is really our ultimate goal.

I’m here before you to state without hesitation that hunting and trapping are very empowering experiences for a young woman and for anyone really. Trapping and hunting have dispelled a lot of Hollywood and television myths about nature. They have taught me the essence of the cycle of birth, maturity, of death and rebirth and the importance of habitat and good resources. They have taught me the difference between a healthy ecosystem and one that is dangerously out of balance. Trapping and hunting have not numbed my sensitivity toward the beauty and value of nature. Quite the contrary. They have heightened my appreciation and respect for all of the natural world. Believe me, my life is much richer for these experiences. This is why I urge you to please say yes to a regulated season on bobcats and river otters.”

George Scalf

George Scalf, Ottumwa, representing the National Trappers Association, distributed a video “Destroying the Myth” for viewing by the more recent commissioners. He said that it is a myth that the leg hold trap is a cruel devise. Mr. Scalf noted that each of the river otters brought into the state were caught in a leghold trap. He said the National Trappers back the DNR on this proposal and asked that they be allowed to have a season to harvest a renewable natural resource and protect them at the same time.

Roger Hutton

Roger Hutton, St. Charles, Iowa, spoke regarding a bobcat and otter season. He said most issues have been covered by previous speakers. He commented that he has known DNR's furbearer biologist for many years and said he provides a building to be used to skin and process bobcats and otters that have been turned in for research. He said DNR biologists work, collect the data, and he has watched the biologists document that data. He added that they are trained professionals who are trained to give you information needed to regulate wildlife. Mr. Hutton commented that with regard to statements about a decline in population, he knows that a lot of trappers are no longer reporting the otters and bobcats they are catching. He said documentation is there that we have the population to have a controlled and limited season.

Bruce Hutton

Bruce Hutton, a fur dealer from Mount Ayr, Iowa, spoke regarding bobcat and otter seasons. He said there is enough data to justify a very limited season in certain areas. He said he trusts the professionals and their advice should be taken to open a limited season and to start utilizing some of the fur. He also said he has talked to many trappers who have not reported they trapped a bobcat but rather just let it go.

Dave Waters

Dave Waters, Clive, Iowa, and farm owner in Wayne County, said he planted 13,000 trees last year and watched turkey population decrease because of bobcats. He said he has a nearly daily sighting of bobcats. He remarked that he has a fur harvesters license and wants young people to have a chance to participate in the sport.

Mr. Waters also stated that the law enforcement officers are dreading another season of nonresident doe tags because they are spending all their time trying to catch the people with nonresident doe tags shooting bucks. He said he lobbied heavily to let nonresidents come to this state and hunt and share in the best whitetail deer herd in the world, but it is not being managed in the proper fashion. Mr. Waters said the finest deer herd in the world has been turned into a cash cow. He asked that the commission to represent the people that hold the tags by giving landowners an opportunity to manage their own herds.

Commissioner Schneider asked for an explanation as to why population figures were so varied.

Terry Little responded that as the research data comes in, it becomes more and more refined. He said some earlier estimates were from rather small sample sizes and as more roadkill and trap kill data came in the number came in slightly lower. Little added that staff thinks there are far more bobcats in Iowa than our very conservative estimates indicate. He said bobcats are very secretive animals which den up during the day and tend to avoid people.

Ron Andrews commented that the annual population growth on river otter is 6.6% and we are talking about harvesting 300 animals in our proposal. Bobcat annual population increase is 7% and a 200 animal harvest is proposed. He said that is a miniscule numbers compared to the annual grow and will allow populations to still increase and expand.

Dale Garner reported that six public meetings are set up across the state to elicit comments from the public. He added that nothing has been decided on the rule yet, but based on the comments received, staff may move forward with a Notice of Intended Action for the March meeting.

FISHERIES HABITAT WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANT REVIEW

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

County Fish Habitat Grant Review Committees met in December and January to review county conservation board projects. Each district forms a grant committee made up of at least five county conservation board directors that rank and score all of the projects in their district. A district fisheries biologist sits on each committee for advisory purposes.

The committee recommends funding the projects as follows:

FISH HABITAT GRANT - FUNDED PROJECTS Nov, 2005

District 1 - recommends fully funding four projects

Grundy County	\$19,710.00	Bank Armoring III - Grundy County Lake
Hardin County	\$13,500.00	South Fork Riffle Project
Story County	\$9,000.00	Soper's Mill Riffle Dam - South Skunk River
Tama County	\$8,292.00	Rip-rap (partial shoreline - Otter Creek Lake)
TOTAL	\$50,502.00	

District 2 - recommends fully funding five project and partial funding for one project

Fayette County	\$14,940.00	Gouldsburg Park fish habitat and bank stabilization
Franklin County	\$20,520.00	Interstate Lake bank stabilization project
Mitchell County	\$15,000.00	Otranto Wildlife Area (acquisition)
Winnebago County	\$4,500.00	Florence Recreation Area Project
Winnebago County	\$20,700.00	Ambrosion Land Acquisition Project
Worth County	\$10,940.00	(partial) 2nd half of Silver Lake Jetty
TOTAL	\$86,600.00	

District 3 - recommends fully funding three projects and partial funding for one project

Crawford County	31,707.00	Yellow Smoke Park - shoreline armoring
Palo Alto County	40,148.00	Rock Riffle III, West Des Moines River
Plymouth County	9,000.00	Hillview Lake bank armoring project
Lyon County	12,468.00	(partial) Rock River/Gravel Pit acquisition
TOTAL	93,323.00	

District 4 - recommends fully funding six projects

Decatur County	\$19,665.00	Little River Lake shoreline protection
Harrison County	\$24,360.00	Willow Lake shoreline protection and enhancement

Mills County	\$7,554.00	Lake Shore habitat/stabilization and jetty
Page County	\$6,300.00	Pierce Creek Lake renovation project
Taylor County	\$25,099.00	Windmill Lake Fisheries habitat project
Union County	\$1,800.00	Thayer Lake renovation
TOTAL	\$84,778.00	

District 5 - recommends fully funding one project

Des Moines County	\$72,000.00	Big Hollow Creek Lake-lake bottom, clearing, grubbing & habitat construction
TOTAL	\$72,000.00	

District 6 - recommends fully funding five projects and partial funding of one project

Allamakee County	\$4,266.00	Lansing Clear Creek pond armament
Delaware County	\$9,225.00	Twin Bridges Wildlife area-Elk Creek Trout Stream development/improvement
Dubuque County	\$9,900.00	Upper Catfish Creek aquatic habitat improvement
Iowa County	\$9,045.00	Lake Iowa restoration
Jones County	\$38,551.00	Pond restoration and watershed improvement-Hale Wildlife Area
Johnson County	\$15,613.00	(partial) Iowa River Bank armament
TOTAL	\$86,600.00	

Motion was made by Commissioner Schneider to approve funding of the fish habitat grant projects as recommended by the County Fish Habitat Grant Review Committees. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANTS APPROVED

WILDLIFE HABITAT WITH LOCAL ENTITIES PROGRAM GRANT REVIEW

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Wildlife Habitat with Local Entities Program Grant Review Committee reviewed a total of fourteen (14) county conservation board projects requesting \$1,349,758.25. A total of \$788,875.00 is available for this grant review.

The committee recommends fully funding seven (7) projects and partial funding for one project as follows.

COUNTY	PROJECT NAME	ACRES	GRANT REQUEST	GRAND AWARD	TOTAL PROJECT COST
Dubuque	Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area Acquisition	419	\$230,000.00	\$230,000.00	\$1,003,000.00

Winnebago	Winnebago Greenbelt Project	River Expansion	134	\$38,700.00	\$38,700.00	\$51,600.00
Pocahontas	Barbee WRP		119	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$60,000.00
Palo Alto	Elbert WRP		56	\$26,500.00	\$26,500.00	\$35,400.00
Plymouth	E.C. Lippke Wetland Addition #1		35	\$30,424.50	\$30,424.50	\$40,556.00
Adams	Hoskinson Land Acquisition		63	\$61,341.00	\$61,341.00	\$83,255.00
Clinton	Scheckloth/Fawcett additions to Ben Martinsen Wildlife Area		173.5	\$227,718.75	\$227,718.75	\$303,625.00
Dallas	Hurst Addition to Big Bend Project		188.5	\$311,241.00	\$155,690.75	\$414,988.00

Commission approval is requested for the committee recommendations.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kramer to approve the recommendation of the Wildlife Habitat with Local Entities Program Grant Review Committee to fully fund seven projects and partial funding for one project as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Duncan. Motion carried unanimously.

GRANTS APPROVED

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DONATIONS

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Natural Resource Commission is asked to approve the following donations:

Parks Bureau

Kathy and Shelby DeBourgh, Dennis, Jan and Bryan Cessford, Ed Berner, Gene and Janice Benson, Calvin Hughes, Adeline Riedesel, Glenn and Cindy Kerkhoff and Greg and Kathy Snodgrass all donated a concrete bench as a memory to Frank Kraft, a long time Natural Resources Aide at Black Hawk State Park. The bench was valued at \$421.60.

Solon Beef Days Committee donated \$1000.00 toward the purchase of playground equipment near the south campground at Lake Macbride State Park.

Donald Bunn donated his labor and use of his portable welder, valued at \$250.00, to make improvements on the fire rings at Volga River Recreation Area campground.

Dick and Karla Jasper, regular campers and volunteers at Pikes Peak State Park, donated an estate rake valued at \$500.00. This is a 6-disc rake that pulls behind a tractor and will be used to rake leaves in the park's picnic and camp areas in the spring and fall.

John Sanden donated 40 tons of field stone (round and sheared granite) valued at \$2000.00 to build a retaining wall to curtail erosion. Also, steps were added to channel the public to the lake, trees added for habitat and the shoreline fishing zone improved.

Ainley Kennels & Fabrication donated plant ID markers valued at \$147.50 to be used for marking flowers and grasses in the gardens at the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center at Mines of Spain Recreation Area.

Wild Birds Unlimited donated bird seed, black oiled sunflower seed and nyger seed, valued at \$112.00 to be used at the interpretive center at the Mines of Spain Recreation Area.

John Sniko from JMS Racing Services donated \$250.00 to be used toward the cost of a display case for the beach information kiosk.

Law Enforcement Bureau

Tim Powers and Whitetails Unlimited donated \$600.00 towards the purchase of a DCR-DVD403 handycam. This camera has the capabilities of still photos and movies and with super steady shot and night vision it will be used for deer decoys, spotlighting, BWIs and other projects.

The Mississippi Valley Sportsmen Chapter of Waterfowl USA donated \$2950.00 for the hookup of a well and hydrant at the Lost Gove Lake boat storage building in Scott County. The hydrant is being used for boat and equipment washing and also used by the Wildlife Bureau for filling sprayer tanks.

The Scott County Chapter of Pheasants Forever donated 6 shotguns for hunter education classes in Scott County. The total cost of the guns is \$1439.94 and includes 4 youth model pump action and 2 adult model pump action guns. All are Remington model 870 express, 20 gauge.

Wildlife Bureau

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Staples donated \$50.00 for the Wildlife Diversity Program.

Diane Ford-Shivvers expressed gratitude of the donors and acknowledged staff for their work with regard to obtaining donations. She said that without our staff being out there working for the natural resources and being the face of the DNR, we wouldn't have these donations. She expressed gratitude to staff.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garst to accept the donations. Seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carried unanimously.

DONATIONS APPROVED

DONATION/RECOGNITION POLICY

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Commission is requested to approve the Donation/Recognition Policy as attached.

DONATION/RECOGNITION POLICY

The Department of Natural Resources values the widespread support of individuals, foundations, corporations, non-profit organizations, service clubs and other entities, and seeks to foster philanthropic traditions through recognition of this support. These partnerships enhance our existing programs, provide the best possible quality in our programming, facilities and services, and offer the reward of clear and direct participation in the conservation of our natural and cultural resources for the donor.

The Department also faces an increased demand for expansion and development of new facilities and programming. The cost of development, maintenance and operation of facilities is escalating sharply and, paradoxically, our budgets for these items are at best stable and often shrinking. Thus, partnerships and fundraising conducted under this policy will enable us to continue to provide, and possibly expand, the high-quality experiences we provide to visitors and citizens of Iowa.

All donations will go to the NRC for approval/acceptance.

I. Types of Donations

- A. Land – All land items including “naming of the land” shall go before the commission for decision regarding acceptance.
- B. Labor - donated labor that is considered a professional service and falls outside of the normal volunteer program shall go before the commission for approval. The donation may be accepted prior to the commission meeting when given a determination of no conflict of interest or ethical conflict.
- C. Cash/Materials – those items which are for significant capital improvements or have contingencies (strings attached), must go before the commission prior to accepting the donation. Bureau chiefs and division administrator shall review and designate such items. All remaining cash/materials contributions may be accepted prior to the commission meeting.

II. Types of Recognition

- A. General Policy: It is our policy to provide a suitable acknowledgement of contributions to donors and sponsors. To protect our resources, values and the visitor experience, recognition shall respect the dignity and focus of the various properties. Therefore, the following principles for recognition shall apply:
 - 1. Forms of recognition shall not detract from the visitor’s experience or expectation.
 - 2. Forms of recognition shall not impair the visual qualities of the property environment.
 - 3. Forms of recognition shall not be perceived as advertising or commercializing the character of the property setting or create a feeling of proprietary interest by the donor.

4. In all forms of recognition, the donor's wishes for anonymity shall be respected.
5. Except in very limited circumstances, neither temporary nor permanent recognition should be affixed to cultural or natural resources of the site, be placed where they would intrude on the historic or natural character of the resource, or upon items of uniform apparel or their accoutrements.
6. Forms of recognition shall not interfere with routine property operations or visitor use.

B. Naming Rights Policy

1. The DNR shall be responsible for coming up with appropriate names for land, facilities, trails, accesses, features or other items that should be named.
2. Existing land, facilities, trails, accesses, features or other items currently possessing a name should not be renamed. The exception for this shall be those items which a new name could clarify location for public use (IE: renaming generic river accesses to help the public identify location).
3. Historic structures/features should not be named if they currently do not have a name. This would include all CCC/WPA structures or any other item on the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Employee recognition based on years of service should not qualify for a naming right unless the employee has an outstanding contribution above and beyond normal job duties to the natural resources. Review by an internal management committee shall make final recommendation for any naming rights regarding employee service recognition.
5. If a negotiation regarding a donation of land or purchase of land by the DNR is contingent upon the seller requesting a naming right, the DNR will respect that request. The same applies to a deed that has a naming right request in it.
6. Memorials, whether cash or materials/structures, will not have "naming rights" for the donation received.
7. Entities which donate a significant contribution to a capital improvement project or new development may negotiate with DNR regarding naming rights. Additionally, with Commission approval a "gift catalog" or other written proposal shall be developed and approved to guide the department and potential donors with respect to naming rights.

C. Physical Recognitions Policy

1. Thank-you letters – all donation items that go before the NRC receive a thank you letter from the Department after the commission meets.

2. Land -- Signs – signs may be erected with "names" that may be associated with the donated land or DNR acquisition. In areas such as parks, signs will not be erected unless the new land parcel contains features or activities that are not normally associated or identified in parks which would confuse the public. Brochures/park maps may, however, identify the newly acquired property by the agreed upon name.
3. Memorials – plaques - plaques shall be placed on or at the structure which was purchased in its entirety "in memory of" by an individual, family, business, etc. The plaque may be placed in an alternate location if the DNR deems that there is a safety hazard, vandalism problem or if the recognition can be better viewed elsewhere. An example would be a tree memorial.
4. Fundraising Project
Sign – a temporary sign may be placed at a project location showing the fundraising donors. The donors shall be categorized based on contribution. All names shall be the same size regardless of the donation made. The DNR shall approval all signs prior to installation. The signs shall be taken down six months after the project has been completed.

Plaque – a significant fund raising project may have a plaque placed in, on or at a project location recognizing all donors. The donors may be categorized based on contribution size. All names shall be the same size regardless of the donation made. DNR shall approve all plaques prior to ordering.
5. Employee Service - a recognition wall/board displaying employees with outstanding years of service may be erected in locations where the employee worked. (Example: a recognition wall in the DSM office for all central office recognitions).
6. Partnerships
Sign - a permanent or temporary sign may be placed at a project location highlighting cooperating entities. All partners' names shall be the same size regardless of contribution to the project. DNR shall approve all signs prior to installation.

Plaque – a permanent plaque may be placed at the project location highlighting cooperating entities. All partners' names shall be the same size regardless of contribution to the project. DNR shall approve all plaques prior to ordering.

III. Policy for Signage/Plaques/Boulders/Other Markers

- A. DNR reserves final approval for all signage, plaques, boulders and other markers.
- B. Location – Location of signs, plaques or other markers shall be determined by the DNR. Most locations will be in, on or near the structure.

- C. Sizes – a uniform size guide shall be developed for DNR use when ordering appropriate physical recognition signage. The sizes shall complement the structure where the plaque, sign or other marker is to be located.
- D. Boulders or Other Markers - The DNR shall determine when and whether boulders with plaques or other markers shall be an appropriate recognition tool. Appropriate areas for boulders could include wildlife areas, forests and trail heads.

Diane Ford-Shivvers stated that staff is often contacted with requests to put memorials in the state parks and when people raise funds for projects they may request a recognition plaque. She said that because we are stewards of our natural resources and stewards of our cultural resources in those parks, we want to make sure to uphold the integrity of all our areas but still be open to people's wishes on donations and recognition. She added that this is especially crucial now as we start turning ground at Honey Creek and will be receiving some big donations. This policy is being developed as a guide on how to proceed and accommodate the public's wishes and still keep the integrity of the resource and infrastructure that will be put in.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco to approve the Donation/Recognition Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Moore.

Commissioner Francisco remarked that the commission discussed this a few years ago and had a discussion on how big the sign should be.

Commissioner Schneider commented that we have to be careful not to weigh the amount of donation to what is wanted. She said a donation policy needs to be developed.

Commissioner Garst listed numerous concerns about the incompleteness of the policy. They included:

--under Types of Donations, conservation easements as well as bargain sale type donations and donations of professional services should be included.

Garst noted that these items are reported to the commission as part of project approvals, but they are gifts that need to be acknowledged, recorded and thanked, particularly those from academics or the Iowa Natural Heritage, Pheasants Forever or Ducks Unlimited type of groups. She said these private entities are helping the department and they may not be fully acknowledged and thanked for their services.

Diane Ford-Shivvers commented that the Conservation and Recreation Division is working on a donations programs and perhaps that needs to be combined in with the land donation and easement programs to capture the entire scope of what the donors have done.

--under number 5 under Naming Rights Policy, Commissioner Garst said the statement should be qualified a little more with "subject to all other restriction in this policy" or something similar. She also asked why memorials do not have naming rights. Garst said she feels naming rights in

memorials is of utmost importance and noted that paragraph 6 is completely inconsistent with C-3, which allows for plaques for memorials.

Commissioner Francisco noted that when George Wyth State Park was toured last year, there were numerous memorial benches that are labeled. He asked what would happen to them if this policy was accepted.

Commissioner Garst asked why in fundraising projects, every name shall be the same size regardless of the size of donation.

Angela Corio explained that is a direct response from the commission requesting a donation policy after a recognition sign was presented at Lewis and Clark and one particular business donor had a huge sized name and everybody else was a smaller size. She said that was viewed as an advertisement. She added that in other states and most donation plaques seen on buildings there may be levels—perhaps a gold level or platinum level, etc., but everyone's name is listed with the same size.

Commissioner Garst asked that some discretion be put into the policy because if, for instance, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation contributes \$1 million to the bulrush project in Spirit Lake, and she contributes \$10, it is not clear that their name and her name should be the same size. She reiterated that more discretion and flexibility should be written into this rule.

Regarding acknowledging donations, Garst gave an example situation whereby of the Iowa Natural Heritage is raising money for DNR for the bulrush project at Spirit Lake. Commissioner Garst noted that this is a situation where donors should be acknowledged and recognized.

Ms. Garst noted other donation policy issues needing further review. They included:
--on page 4 under Partnerships. It talks about names, but logos may need to be included.
--page 4—III. Policy for Signage/Plaques/Boulders/Other Markers, relates to structures but should also relate to land acquisition and maybe even programming and equipment.
She added that the document is more of a signage policy rather than a general donation policy.

Garst asked if the department could provide what various organizations have donated to the department during 2005. She also suggested that a magazine article or press release acknowledging these donors may be appropriate.

It was the consensus of the commission to table this item until a later date.

TABLED

FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP PLANS ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

Terry Haindfield and Gary Beyer presented information on the Forestry Stewardship Plans on Wildlife Management Areas. These plans will increase the diversity of forest wildlife and prioritize species of greatest concern. The Wildlife Bureau manages state-owned forest for the greatest diversity of forest wildlife and esthetic value. The Wildlife Forest Stewardship Plan will prioritize the “species for greatest conservation needs,” and will utilize habitat factors to benefit species of declining populations. Forests land inventory will be conducted on each WMA and the information will be entered into a database. This database along with the guiding factors will be used to make forest management decisions on the Wildlife Management Areas.

INFORMATION ITEM

WATER TRAILS PROGRAM GRANTS

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Conservation and Recreation Division, presented the following item.

The Iowa DNR Water Trails program was developed to support linear, on-water trail projects on waterways throughout Iowa. The fiscal year 2006 awards, determined by scoring committee members including two DNR staff and two citizens, are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Awarded to</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>
Skunk River water trail	Story County Conservation Board	\$6,000
Cedar Valley Paddlers Trail	Black Hawk County Conservation Board	\$6,701
Emmet County water trail	Emmet County Water Trails Association	\$7,264
Iowa River water trail	Hardin County Conservation Board	\$5,283
Des Moines-Boone water trail	Boone County Board of Supervisors	\$10,150
Reconnecting The Rivers	Iowa Whitewater Coalition	\$10,000
Middle Raccoon water trail	Carroll County Conservation Board	\$3,610
TOTAL		\$49,008

Diane presented the past history of a water trails program. She introduced Nate Hoogeveen, an AmeriCorps member who is working to help establish a water trails program. Rules have not yet been written for this program but are in the process of being written. Grants and awards of \$25,000 or more are taken to the commission for approval.

INFORMATION ITEM

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Garst reviewed that at the last meeting she made the motion for the commission to support the legislative initiatives of the conservation and recreation division. She said that in our legislative report this morning, it came out loud and clear that the support of partner organizations on DNR initiatives does help that legislation to get through. DNR staff by themselves is a tiny constituency to get the legislature to do anything. Garst said it seems that DNR is attempting to make more progress and involving partner organizations in their legislative initiatives and getting the support of various constituencies to get the things through, but above all else, the commission should be a partner in this.

Motion was made by Commissioner Garst to support the Conservation and Recreation Division's initiatives in front of the legislature. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Motion carried unanimously..

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT APPROVED

Commissioner Marcantonio reported she received information from Noodlers Anonymous, in which they request Iowa to consider and research the possibility of establishing a handfishing season.

Marion Conover, Fisheries Bureau Chief, distributed copies of the Noodlers Anonymous information that was received regarding Missouri's action on this type of handfishing. He explained that this is an age-old, cultural sport and is practiced in some states but is an illegal sport in Iowa. He added that while the information is interesting he does not recommend moving forward with this type of sport.

Liz Christiansen reported on the REAP meetings being held around the state. She invited commissioners to attend any meetings held in their areas. A list of the meeting dates and locations will be distributed to the commissioners.

Liz Christiansen announced that reporting forms from the Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board were distributed to the commissioners. These reports must be filed by the end of April.

Commissioner Schneider reported she attended the Water Safety Council meeting at Okoboji. She said it was very well attended and the Water Safety Council still wants a boat speed of 30 mph, but the majority of the people at the meeting preferred a 25 mph or slower.

Joan Schneider asked about the Walleye Club request that Pools 10 through 13 also be stocked with fingerlings along with Pools 9 and 14.

Marion Conover reported that the Mississippi River is the only walleye fishery that is sustained by natural reproduction. He said Pool 14 stocking is done through the assistance of the Cordova Nuclear Power Plant and the old cooling canals are being used to culture walleye on the Illinois side. Mr. Conover noted that a walleye club out of Dubuque, with our help, will be stocking at least one of the pools being talked about. He added that most of our fingerlings are obligated for other places.

NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting will be held March 9, 2006 in the Honey Creek, Rathbun area.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Schneider to adjourn the February 9, 2006 NRC meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Francisco. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m..

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Director

Janice Marcantonio, Chairperson

Randy Duncan, Secretary

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